



# ***In Case of Emergency...***

Monthly Newsletter of the Utah Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security

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## **STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT AWARDS**

Local communities will benefit from nearly \$3.9 million in equipment to enhance response capabilities across the state through the State Homeland Security Grant. The Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security will begin dispersing the grants to seven regional response teams and statewide explosive ordinance disposal teams immediately.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Domestic Preparedness provided the fiscal year 2003 grant. This grant replaces the U.S. Department of Justice Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) grant the state has received for the past three years. The new grant also includes funds for planning, training and exercises at the state level.

"Distributing the equipment grant through regional teams maximizes response capabilities statewide," said Utah Public Safety Commissioner Robert Flowers. "It allows local jurisdictions to prioritize needs regionally and work together to enhance public safety."

Coordinating committees have been meeting to determine needs and response strategies in each region. These committees will determine what equipment is purchased for that region. Equipment purchased through the grant is specific to terrorism/WMD prevention, response, detection and mitigation.

An advisory board, with representatives from the Utah National Guard, law enforcement, fire, health, emergency management and private industry, worked with the division to determine a formula for distribution based on population and the number of counties in each region. The grant was distributed in the following way:

- o Region I (Box Elder, Cache, Davis, Morgan, Rich, Weber) - \$891,139
- o Region II (Salt Lake, Summit, Tooele, Utah, Wasatch) - \$1,679,816
- o Region III (Juab, Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, Wayne) - \$339,187
- o Region IV (Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, Washington) - \$375,005
- o Region V (Daggett, Duchesne, Uintah) - \$177,584
- o Region VI (Carbon, Emery) - \$122,989
- o Region VII (Grand, San Juan) - \$113,960
- o Statewide EOD Teams - \$194,720

### ***REQUEST FOR GUEST CONTRIBUTORS***

Share your good news, ideas and best practices in this newsletter. We would like to feature the good things that are going on statewide in this newsletter each month. Send your columns, news stories, ideas and tidbits to [paulae@utah.gov](mailto:paulae@utah.gov).

## **EXERCISE RED CANYON RESPONSE**

What would happen if terrorist stormed a visitor center, took hostages, and planted explosives at one of America's large dams? That is the exact scenario that several local, state and federal agencies set out to test at a full-scale exercise at the Flaming Gorge Dam on June 2-3 sponsored by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

More than 225 people from 19 different agencies participated in the exercise. Some played the roles of the terrorists and victims, but most responded to the incident as though it were real.



In any kind of incident, local responders are the first on the scene. If local responders determine the scope of the incident is beyond their resources, they notify state officials. Then federal authorities are called, especially if terrorism is involved.

This scenario played out much the same way. First, dam security officers, local law enforcement from Daggett County and Sweetwater County, Wyoming, local fire departments, ambulance services and emergency managers responded to the scene. After local responders realized what they were dealing with, they called for state and federal assets.

State responders included individuals from DES, the Utah Criminal Intelligence Center, the Utah Highway Patrol and its dive and tactical teams and air bureau and an explosive ordinance disposal team. The FBI also brought a tactical team, negotiation team and others.



Plans for the exercise were driven by two main goals: to enhance the capability of regional assets to respond to a crisis at Flaming Gorge Dam and to develop a model to use at other sites across the county.

Overall, the exercise was a great success. "Protection of our nation's critical infrastructure is of paramount importance," said Scott Behunin, director of the Utah Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security. "Joint exercises such as these allow us to practice a coordinated response and demonstrate our ability to deal with any situation."

## FIVE YEARS AND COUNTING

Dry conditions persist in Utah for the fifth year in a row. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration considers drought conditions extreme to exceptional in most of the state.

Governor Mike Leavitt declared an agricultural disaster for the state in May noting low runoff, hot, dry winds and insect infestations are exacerbating drought conditions statewide.

So far, only one county, San Juan, has issued an emergency declaration for drought this year. In issuing the declaration, the county commission stated concern that some communities may need culinary water hauled.

Last year, DES worked with several other public and private organizations to bring water to the remote community of Navajo Mountain. If conditions persist or even worsen similar measures might be needed this summer.

## PUBLIC OFFICIALS CONFERENCE SET

The Annual Public Officials Conference will be held August 21-22, 2003, at the Yarrow Hotel in Park City, Utah. This year's theme is "Homeland Security, the Ultimate Reality Show."

More than 300 participants are expected to attend the conference. National speakers from all aspects of emergency management will teach on the first day. The second day of the conference is a "survivor school" where participants will hear case studies and techniques on surviving in today's emergency management field.

This is our showcase training event of the year. Registration packets will be mailed in early July. Check our website [www.des.utah.gov](http://www.des.utah.gov) or conference information and updates. We look forward to seeing you at the conference. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Watanabe at (801) 538-3750.



## SOUTHWEST CORP COUNCIL MAKING STRIDES

The Southwest Utah Regional Citizen Corps Council (SWRCC) has been busily working for the past four months to build an effective team that will be ready to help in any disaster situation.

Led by a 20-member executive board, the SWRCC has established a charter and bylaws. Recently the council began working with Central Utah Regional Citizen Corps Council and the Corporation for Community and National Service to bring Vista Volunteers to each of the 11 counties. This would provide greatly needed assistance to local emergency managers and programs such as LEPCs, and CERT.

The Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security supports the SWRCC as they take steps to better assist emergency preparedness organizations throughout the Southwest Region.

## MOCK EMERGENCY DRILL AT AUTOLIV

By Guest Contributor Kerry Brinkerhoff

Autoliv of Tremonton is in the business of making products that save lives. To make the plant safer for employees, last year several volunteers from each shift were trained as Emergency First Responders by Bridgerland Applied Technology Center in Logan. In this way, trained employees can assist fellow employees in time of accidents, illness or emergencies.

Stephen Smith, the Security/EMT Coordinator for the Autoliv Tremonton facility, felt this team needed to be prepared for an emergency that would also require major outside support. On May 17, a mock exercise was put into play.

Many local dignitaries and community emergency management personnel were able to observe this mock disaster. Autoliv's emergency response team and local community emergency teams worked together for the first time. It appeared that an advantageous relationship had been forged.

After the exercise, Autoliv officials and Autoliv emergency response team members met with Tremonton and Garland city officials. They discussed what went well and what needed improvement. Many good suggestions were made that should guarantee better emergency services in the future.

This exercise can make community members as well as Autoliv employees confident that highly trained emergency services will respond in a topnotch manner to emergencies in the area. This joint exercise provided local emergency teams a better understanding of Autoliv, its facilities and on-site emergency system.



It seemed everyone involved felt this exercise was a successful endeavor.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

July 30-31	Community Mass Care Management Course
August 5-6	Basic PIO Course
August 7	Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools Course
August 20-21	Public Officials Conference
August 25-30	Hazardous Material Incident Management Course

For more information, visit [www.des.utah.gov](http://www.des.utah.gov) or contact DES at 801-538-3400 or toll-free at 800-753-2858